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MANUSCRIPTS

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MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDS
FROM THE
BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION

VOLUME I

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NUMBER 8

EARLY SANDUSKY TRADE AND SOME OF ITS
TRADERS.

Some Thomas Williams Letters.

Thomas Williams to whom many of the following letters are addressed was a native of Albany N. Y. and came to Detroit as trader about 1765. He soon became a man of prominence and held many important civil positions. He was justice of the peace 1778-1784, notary, judge and in 1782 was employed to take the census of Detroit and surroundings. He acquired a great deal of land about Detroit which was absorbed in the settlement of his estate. On May 7, 1781, he married Marie Cecile, sister of Joseph Campau. This was one of the earliest Protestant marriages in Detroit and was performed by the military Commandant, Major DePeyster. Marie Cecile was born Sept. 12, 1764. Thomas died in 1785 between Oct. 15 and Dec. 12, leaving a widow and three children—John R., Catherine, who married Jean B. Pelletier, and Elizabeth, who taught a girls school in Detroit and applied for a donation lot for a school after the fire of 1805. *Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 8; Farmer's History of Detroit and Michigan, Vol. 2, p. 1031; Deeds on file in the Register's Office in Detroit.*

Boyle & Williams to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 213.

Sanduskey, 25th July 1772.

Sir,

We have sent by Mr. Mercer one pack of Beaver in which we think there is 93 lbs. of good and 16 lbs. not so good, also 9 good others. The prices are as follows, the good beaver 9/ the other 6/ others 22/ If you please to take the pack at those rates its yours otherwise Mr. Mercer has orders to store it up till we come into Detroit which we expect will in latter end of Sept. The value of the Pack is fifty five pounds, eleven shillings, which you will credit our account for if you take it.

We are Sir your Humble Servants,
BOYLE* & WILLIAMS.

To Mr. Thomas Williams.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 81.

Sandusky, 15th Nov. 1779.

Sir,

I have shipped per the Adventure the Peltry as per Inventory inclosed.

Mr. Edgar has wrote me concerning the augmenting our concern here You'll please to observe that I am now capable of doing the business here, if we only have permission to trade here why should we take so many in the Concern, we would then be Seven Concerned. Small would be the share to each, after all would be settled. If Mr. Edgar or you have made any Agreement with them, you'll please send me a Copy. I think it would be to our disadvantage to be concerned with these people

*Philip Boyle came to Detroit as a sutler in 1761. He was also trading at Sandusky and was one of those recompensed for losses in Pontiac's conspiracy at the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768. During the Revolution he was put on his good behavior by the British authorities at Detroit because of his American sympathies. He died in 1779 between Aug. 29, when he witnessed a deed and Nov. 25 when a wine bill was presented to his estate. John Dodge wrote him a letter, directing it to Philip Boyle, merchant at St. Dusk, July 13, 1779. *Farmer's History of Detroit and Michigan, Vol. I, page 173; Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. 23, pages 130, 220; Detroit Register's Office 1775-1780, Vol. B.*

except that the Goods imported by them would be thrown in at first Cost and Charges, and that they R. & T. furnish the Concern at a fixed rate for a certain time.

However I leave that to your and Mr. Edgar's better Judgment and what you conclude upon will satisfy Your Humble Servant,

W. ARUNDEL.*

Mr. Dawson has no Goods here now nor when he went away. The goods sometime before he went away he disposed to a prisoner at the Upper Town. However Mr. Caldwell will look into these matters, disposing of Goods to prisoners in war time is not the Orders we had from the Commandant.

I send you the Case, Excuse haste, the Vessel just going away.

Since inventory 39 Racoons in a Bundle.

The Boat just arrived, but its very hard you'll send me not Invoices, tis not Inventorys but the Invoices I am most in need of Not one since June last. How can I regulate the price of goods without knowing what they cost.

Very considerate Mr. Edgar is I think. Some things I wrote for might have been sent me. I shall have a good Winter—no Flour, Sugar, Rum, Nor Shoes, etc.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 159.

Lower Sandusky, 14th April 1782.

Sir,

I was favoured with yours per the Sergeant and with regard to the Horses, will make it known to Mr. Dawson per the first opportunity altho' I have heard they are not to be purchased from S Gerty† whose Comrade is the proprietor.

*William Arundel was at Lower Sandusky in July 1779 and assisted at the council held between the Wyandots and the Delawares. He sent a copy of the council proceedings to Capt. Lernoult at Detroit. In 1781-2 Mr. Arundel was still at Sandusky and aided the Moravian Missionaries when on their journey to Detroit. In 1782 he was instrumental in saving the life of Thomas Edgerton who had been captured by the Indians and was about to be burned at the stake. *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, Vol. 10, page 348; *History of the Girtys; Heckewelder's Narrative*, edited by Connelley.

†Simon Girty was one of the four notorious Girty brothers who distinguished themselves for their cruelty and barbarity during the Revolution. Simon was born in 1741 in Pennsylvania. He was often employed as an interpreter at Indian Councils and in Dunmore's war, as a scout and messenger. During the Revolution he allied himself with McKee and others in the British cause. He married Catharine Malott who had been captured by the Indians and settled on a farm near Amherstburg, Canada. He died February 18, 1818, and was buried on the farm. *History of the Girtys by Butterfield*.

The Robideau's has been here the 9th Inst., the Chief Rontondie being then here L. R. sent for him, to spake to him concerning a Bargain made with the Indians of this Village per A Coone* and Long House, Alias Shonnonshishe when they came first to the Island.

The Bargain as L. R. says they were to plow for the people here a Six per Acre and take in what the Indians had, such as Peltry, Goods, etc., in payment, and that they were to be on the Island and not to be interrupted by any other either with merchandize or Cattle belonging to others, however the People he said did not trouble them, but the Goods we had there was the only objection he had, so that if they would be removed he would plow for them as usual.

The Chief made for Answer that no person then in the Village had any knowledge of any such Agreement, nor neither could he approve of any such Agreement, as they were paid for their work twas sufficient and whoever made the Bargain done very wrong, and to prevent all dispute (he told them) or jealousy that all who had any property should take it off the Island and go to where they came from.

LeVellie† the Bearer was Interpreter, who will deliver you the Gold as there's no possibility of getting this Negro Wench or cattle from Mr. Coone.

To prevent Gevan's trading here some time we amicably agreed to throw in and he is gone down on the Lake to trade Sugar & *Graise* from the Gibcois, etc., not out of the Limits of Sandusky.

The inclosed is an account of Sundrys as you'll see per— You'll please put the prices to these articles in the account according to their value with you or should the Major Otherwise chose to return Flour and Pork for it out of the Store, you'll lay the Pork by and send the Flour here per first opportunity.

I shall send one or maybe both Boats soon loaded for you, when I shall write you more fully, as I have an Answer of a letter to the Major to write.

I am Sir Your Humble Servant,

W. ARUNDEL.

*See note page 18, this volume.

†Francis LeVillier, the Frenchman appointed by Girty to take the Moravians to Detroit in 1782 in place of Girty, who had gone with a party of Wyandots to war against the Americans on the Ohio. They started March 15, 1782, but spent four weeks at Lower Sandusky where they were met by Sargeant Race and several men of the King's Rangers and embarked for Detroit on April 14, 1782. LeVillier was killed in the Crawford expedition at Sandusky. *Heckewelder's Narrative*, edited by Connelley, pages 413-415; *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, Vol. 20, page 25.

The last Accounts from Mr. Dawson we have about 60 horse load of skins there, this was dated 21st March, and he's not to account till the latter end of May. These People's baggage lumbars so much the boats its impossible they can take any Packs.

Compliments to Mr. Williams.

Please remember me to my brother and tell him I had not time to answer his letter.

You forgot to send the Potatoes promised.

The Horse I have never received from Whitaker as he lost him, but I have heard of him and sent an Indian for him who is not yet returned. You'l in case he'd not get, take notice as they may take him to Detroit.

The other was Sd Mr. Dawson by the Minister, and two days after died of the Botts, his teeth fell all out and he could not eat.

Please settle with the Major for 28 lbs. Shott I made use of out of the Store.*

William Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 173.

Shawney Town, 1st May 1782.

Sir,

I take this opportunity per Captain McKee of inclosing you Government and sundry other bills as undermentioned which I hope will meet with due acceptance. This day I leave this place for Sanduskey where I shall be glad you may write me the first opportunity if the bills are paid I draw on you for a trifle which is a part belonging to Robins & McCormick which we laid in together in partnership in this place and Upper Sanduskey we have no news here at present.

I am Sir,

Your Very Humble Servant,

WILLIAM DAWSON.

Govt. per Capt. Elliott	112..16.
Captain Elliott Private—A/c	24..18. which he will pay you.
Capt. McKee has the a/c on Govt.	209.. 8. will settle with you.
Do. Private	15.. 4.
John Flory on Mr. Macomb†	17..18.
H. Babee on Mr. Babee	59..13.
James Gerty‡ on Macomb	23..16.

£463..13.

*See letter from William Arundel to Thomas Williams, April 27, 1782, page 18, this volume.

†William Macomb was born in Ireland in 1751, son of John Macomb. His father came to America in 1755 or 1759, bringing with him an older son, Alexander, born in

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 168.

Sandusky, 23rd May 1782.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Dft. on Mr. Macomb for B 2..11..3 which when paid please place to our Credit and you'll Oblige

Your Humble Servants,
A. & DAWSON.

Be so good as let us know if you were paid by Govt. the Accounts for the Moravian Teachers, and let us know the Amount as some Articles were no price to.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 174.

Sandusky, 23rd May 1782.

Sir,

Please receive the boat load of Packs and be so good as let the men have 1/2 gallon Rum. You'll please discharge Allen, deducting four Dollars from his wages. The other two are to have £5 each for the trip. Young Abm said he'd come out in the boat. However you'll please dispatch her immediately if the Commanding Officer should have anything to send out please make the offer, and Le Vellie requests you'll be so good as send him an 8 gallon kegg of Rum.

I am Sir,

Yours etc.,
W. ARUNDEL.

Please not to deduct the 4 Dollars as above mentioned.

Ireland in 1750. In 1772 they came to Detroit and established themselves as traders. Alexander had acquired the "Macomb Purchase" in New York, a vast estate including the Thousand Islands on the American side. William became a large land owner at Detroit, where he possessed most of the islands in the Detroit River and the Martin farm in the city of Detroit, later called the Macomb farm and now the Cass farm. He died April 16, 1796, leaving a wife and several children. *Governor and Judges Records, Proceedings of the Land Board, 1915, page 158.*

‡James Gerty, brother of Simon Girty.

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 171.

Sandusky, 24th May 1782.

Sir,

We have received yours and marked the contents and have drawn on you in favor of Mr. Dawson for 150£. Mr. Dawson arrived here yesterday, he intends to go in with the cattle as soon as he gets all the peltry down here. We have only to Congratulate you on the birth of your Son.

Wishing Mrs. Williams a speedy recovery, we are with Compliments,

Your Very Humble Servants,
A. & DAWSON.

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 184.

Sandusky 1st June 1782.

Sir,

We have drawn on you in favor of the Bearer for £39..14.. Being a balance due for peltry bought from him last Fall, and must beg leave (from the knowledge we have of him and from them that has been acquainted with him formerly) to recommend him to you as a man worthy your acquaintance and we would take it as a particular favor if you may have it in your power to serve him, It will be esteemed as such by

Your Very Humble Servants,
ARUNDEL & DAWSON.

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 186.

Sandusky, 11th June 1782.

Sir,

Inclosed you have Mr. Corbin's draft on Mr. Ademar for £35..4..—which when paid please place to the Company's credit, and you have the Inventory of the packs. The last 52 is now on board the Faith and as she is to return please send us

2 prs. Blue Stroud 6 lbs. Pearl Barley and 1 lb. tea, 2 galls. Maderia. We have nothing more to add, only our Compliments to Mrs. Williams, and

am Sir,
Yours, etc.,

ARUNDEL & DAWSON.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 183.

Sandusky, 17th June 1782.

Sir,

Inclosed you have the late Frans. LeVellie's private accounts, amounting to 1877..8 livres and likewise an account of sundries for the use of Indians as stated in the Account 244 Livres, and a small account against Govt. of 19..10..6 furnished as per Do. the wampum was for to save the life of the boy sent in our boat.

There is here a cow and three horses belonging to the late LeVellie which I cannot get from the woman he kept, Capt. Caldwell seems to decline having anything to do in regard of getting them from her for reason as he does not chuse to affront any of them, the present times will not admitt of it,—Therefore hope you'll be so good as to try and get what pay is coming to him deposited in your hands until such time as these matters can be settled,

Inclosed is a small account Mr. LaBute desired I'd send you.

In the meantime I shall do all in my power to get the horses and cow from the Indian woman. There's a few things of his I had in the House, was apprized 6..14..—but do not send you the bill as it may be I may get the things from her so will send you altogether if possible soon.

The account against Govt., he said if the Major would not pay it, he would.

I am, Sir, Your Humble Servant,

W. ARUNDEL.

Please let me know if the accounts against Govt. will be answered and as soon as possible.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 181.

Sandusky, 24th June 1782.

Sir,

I was favored with yours yesterday and as Corbin is here will have that draft settled. I send you the remainder of the damaged Bbls and the ps. of silk as it would not answer for cravattes, there's 18½ pr. Blankets that can be made nothing of here, so you'll please place them to our Credit. I had a notion of sending a Bark Canoe for goods we want and have wrote for per Dr. Harfey* but as the vessel has to come out immediately with supplies etc., without which the campaign cannot be carried on Captain McQuarry has promised to Store away for us to the bulk of ten barrels, so you'll be so good as to be as expeditious as possible in completing the order and sending them on board, we want every article with an addition of a barrel of Indian sugar. When the vessel sailed from here there went in her a man of ours P Johnston, he was bought from the Munceys last Fall by Mr. Dawson for £40 and was found in cloaths since to the amount of about £15, so as he was to serve us two years for the getting him away from the Indians, and was sent on board the Vessel by the Commandant here its to be hoped the Major will be so good as to reimburse us the sum expended Whats done in this matter please let us know. Otherwise that the man as he is a Taylor by trade and a good workman be ——— and allowed to work till the sum is paid. If you could send me a few news papers, would be much obliged to you, and as you intimated having had some books in the communication, should the History of the Present War from the Commandant be among them, please send it to me and charge to my account.

*Dr. William Harffy, in 1781, was sent to Detroit to relieve Dr. Menzies, surgeon of the 84th Regiment. He was then at Three Rivers and was to act as Hospital Mate. He retained this position until 1786, when he succeeded Dr. George Christian Anthon, head surgeon. He lived at Detroit until the coming of Wayne and then, electing to remain a British subject, he removed with the troops to Amherstburg or Malden and continued as garrison surgeon. He was the first judge of the Western District Court of the Province of Upper Canada in 1797 and in 1800 and 1801 served in the Court of Quarter Sessions. He was sick during the winter of 1801-1802 and died in the spring of 1802. Capt. David Cowen and John Askin were executors of his will. While living in Detroit he owned a garden facing Fort Lernoult which he sold to George Leith & Co. in 1797. This garden was cultivated, planted with trees and picketted. *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, Vol. 19, page 620; Vol. 20, page 186; *Burton Historical Collections*, Manuscript Vols. 4-13.

I have nothing more to add only we have no flour, and am
with Compliments to Mrs. Williams,

Yours sincerely,
WM. ARUNDEL.

Please chuse me two pr. good shoes for myself and send them
per Capt. McQuarry.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 185.

Sandusky, 26th June 1782.

Sir,

The Bearer Mr. Dawson having some matters of consequence
of his own to settle which calls to Detroit, The Compy was
under the necessity of drawing on you in his favor for £130
N. Y. Cy., which is a balance due him for goods taken in the
Partnership when he joined it, and as Govt. by Capt. Caldwell
has not allowed cattle and sundry other accounts which will
be settled for Before they set off for the Campaign there will
be a good sum sent you soon.

I together with the Interpreters here have done all in our
power to get the horses and cow from the Woman formerly
kept by LeVellie but out of our power and there's no quarrelling
with them, if they were in Dt. they may be taken from them.
I nothing more to add for the rest refer to Mr. Dawson and I
am, with compliments to Mrs. Williams,

Yours,
WM. ARUNDEL.

David W. Meriwether to His Father, William Meriwether.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 1036, page 162.

Forks of Cheet and Monongalia
June 27, 1782

Most. Hond. Sir—*****

News we have more in Quarter than I could write you in two
Days, therefore will begin in telling you that about the time I
arrived home, there started an army of about 500 men from this

side the mountains under the command of one Colo. Crawford* to go to the Indian Cuntry, their first intention was to go to Saint Dusky a principle Indian Town, but were met when they got within about two miles of the Town by a powerful and vastly superior number of Indians Collected from the Different Towns when a very severe action began and continued from Eight O'clock until Dark our men being obliged from superiority of numbers to retreat and were pursued two Days by the Savages fighting on the whole retreat. I cannot with any Degree of accuracy give you an account of our loss Killed, Wounded and missing, but from the best information I can get, it does not exceed fifty men, and that of the Enemy from Account much greater—we have had very troublesome times this summer, many families have been entirely cut off. The people on the West side of the River have been fortified since February last, and God knows when they will get out, as I fear this Defeat will cause the Savages to make a bold push on their Frontiers before Fall unless the Settlements should make up a second campaign, which much talked of after Harvest. I wish much to move from this Quarter as I'm sensible there is, and will be danger every Summer so long as the war continues. I have conditionally rented a plantation of Colo. Innes at Fort Cumberland the particulars Cousin Nicholas will Inform you. We have much talk of peace here, but I fear without foundation.*****

I must conclude most honorable Father your dutiful son

DAVID W. MERIWETHER†

William Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 215.

Sanduskey, 7th July 1782.

Sir,

Some small articles omitted in the letter you'll please to send by the same opportunity as the others—1500 gun flints the best for rifles, 1/2 dozen Forks—Please to excuse haste the hurry at present of Capt. Bradt to join Capt. Caldwell at the Upper

*Col. William Crawford, who was captured with Dr. Knight by the Delaware Indians, tortured and burned at the stake, June 11, 1782. Dr. Knight escaped on the 13th and arrived at Fort Pitt July 4th. At the time this letter was written news of the torture of Crawford had not been heard. *Crawford's Expedition by Butterfield; Sketch of Col. William Crawford, Ohio Arch. and Hist. Publications, Vol. 6, pages 1-34.*

†David Wood Meriwether was the son of William Meriwether and his wife, Martha Cox Wood. He had a sister Elizabeth who married her cousin, Nicholas Meriwether. David Wood married Mary Lewis, daughter of John Lewis of Virginia. He was born in 1756 and died in 1797. *The Meriwethers and their Connections by Louisa H. A. Minor, 1892, page 88.*

Town of Sandusky is the reason the boats just now going from the Vessel.

I am Sir

Your Very Humble Servant,

WILLIAM DAWSON.

William Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 216.

— — Island, Sandusky, 14th July 1782.

Sir,

Being ordered in a hurry on board the Faith, I left my Invoice on the Counter. I shall be glad you will send it the first opportunity; I expect when we arrive at the Lower Town, I shall have occasion to inclose you a memorandum of sundries may be wanting this summer for the two Detachments of Colonel Butler's* Rangers. My Compliments to Mrs. Williams and Mr. Cassety, and remain

Your very Humble Servant,

WILLIAM DAWSON.

Thos. Williams Esq.

3000 Large Broaches	}	By the first opportunity.
2000 small "		

4 lbs. Green Tea	}	" " " "
6 lbs. Bohea "		

Obediah Robins to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 205.

Sanduskey, 23rd July 1782.

Sir,

I suppose you have the affair of Mr. Kays to transact. I send you in care of James Howdon twenty six packs of peltrys, the quality you will see by the inclosed invoice and I think they are of a tolerable good kind for Sanduskey,

*John Butler was born in New London, Conn., in 1725. His father was an Irish officer who came to the North American colonies in 1711. Butler served as captain in the Indian Department under Sir William Johnson. He also served at Ticonderoga under Abercrombie and with Bradstreet. Throughout the Revolution he commanded his famous Rangers. The corps was disbanded in June, 1784. After the war Butler was Deputy Superintendent of Indians. He died at Niagara in 1796 and was buried May 15th. *Mrs. Simcoe's Journal* by J. Ross Robertson, pages 71-72, 311.

We should be glad to know whether you will have up a large quantity of Indian goods this summer, and if agreeable to you, I believe we would take our outfits from you this Fall, as you have some connections here and we are connected at the Upper Town and the Shawanoes Town, so that all the Trade from this place would come into your hands. This makes 130 packs we have sent in this summer. Mr. McCormick is on the Campaign with Captain Caldwell. I have no more to trouble you with at present from this Quarter.

I remain Sir,

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant,

OBEDIAH ROBINS.*

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 239.

Sandusky, 14th Aug. 1782.

Sir,

Since my last to you of the 10th inst., have nothing to refer only that Lorty is gone round by the Roche de bault and therefore inclose you the draft so as that he may be obliged to pay it, as he certainly told me that Mr. Askin would certainly answer it.†

As Mr. Robins is gone in and will be soon on his return, must request you to send by him if possible the ribband, ferretting, Silver Works, a pr. scarlet some coarse thread and the shirts with a pr stroud good colour as these articles are really wanting.

Please return the inclosed account to Mr. Dufresne and let him know I could not get the man to settle it, as for any other things there is to settle of the old Company with him, that can be done when I go in this fall.

Should there be anything else that Mr. Robins can take besides the above mentioned light articles, please send them, but the above preferable to all others.

Since I began this letter I find Lorty is on his way for this place so keep the draft till his arrival.

*Ohediah Robins and Geo. McBeath were merchants in partnership at Detroit in 1768. He staid there for a few years and in 1782 was at Sandusky where he had a house and sheltered the unmarried Moravian men on their journey to Detroit. *Heckewelder's Narrative by Connelley, page 434.*

†The opening paragraph of this letter was crossed out in the original copy.

No news from the Shawaney Country since my last only indian reports that no army is coming against the Indian Country.
I am Sir yours etc., etc., in haste,

W. ARUNDEL.

The Invoice of the things per Mr. }
Dawson and those you may send. }

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 246.

Lower Sandusky, 20th Aug. 1782.

Sir,

I received from Mr. Dawson the other day a small Horse load Peltry with an order for goods and Silver Works, Sugar, etc. He says there's a great deal of trade at the Chawney Towns; he has not seen the Captains McKee, Caldwell or Elliott since his arrival there as they with 20 rifle men Indian Officers and 100 Indians were gone to Cantuc.

Capt. Braat with the rest of the Rangers are at the Chawney Towns, and the others from Cantuc are expected daily, they are in there I suppose by this time, he says likewise Capt. Braat told him that Elliott said he'd stand to his bargain.

I shall send in a boat as soon as I have got her load of Peltry in the meantime must recommend to you to try and send these things wrote for in a former order if any Vessel for this place as they are wanting together with 100 plain shirts of Linen at 12 or 13d sterling first cost pr. yard—and 1 barrel Powder Double F, as for the news of this place I really think the enemy will come, but if the Commandant gives any assistance, together with the troops and indians in the Chawney Country, they will certainly be beat; another thing we can soon get out of their way if its thought they are too numerous. I suppose by this time that our Governor is come up, Now you'll have it in your power to settle everything regarding this Country, which I hope may be done according to your expectation I assure you its worth your while.

I am Sir with Compliments to Mrs. Williams,

Your Very Humble Servant,

W. ARUNDEL.

Sealing wax & Ink Powder

Expresses from one Quarter to Another for Govt., my
Stationary almost out.

William Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 238.

Wakatomakey,* 27th Aug. 1782.

Sir,

Inclosed I send you Captain Bradt's† draft on Mr. Askins for Two Hundred and Sixty Six Pounds Nineteen Shillings and a Penny N. Y. C. which I hope will meet with due acceptance; I received from Mr. Arundel, Turney's‡ & Lorty's§ Draft, but they are not as yet returned from Ware. Please to send the goods as soon as possible that was ordered last Mr. Arundel & Elliott's bargain is void and of no effect. My Compliments to Mrs. Williams and believe me to be

Your very Humble Servant,
WILLIAM DAWSON.

N. B. Three days ago Capt. Caldwell arrived here from Cantucky¶, has made a capital stroke killed five field officers, several captains and other officers and privates; killed and taken prisoner 150—on our side only one man killed which is Mr. Labute Eight Indians killed and fourteen wounded. Colonel Clark is expected in this Country in a few days; in 6 days we go to Sanduskey to defend that Post.

W. DAWSON.

*Wapatomica, Wakatomika, Waukataumikee, a name given to two Indian towns in Ohio, one on the Miami near the present town of Zanesfield, the other on the Muskingum below what is now Coshocton. It is undoubtedly the town on the Muskingum here referred to. This was the "upper Shawanese village" and is shown on *Hutchin's* map of 1778. In 1774 a campaign was organized to go against the Shawnee towns on the Muskingum. The towns were destroyed and the Indians dispersed. It is said the towns were not rebuilt and the Shawnees moved to the Scioto and Miami rivers. *Heckewelder's Narrative by Connelley, pages 241, 245, 253.*

†Capt. Andrew was one of Butler's rangers. His name appears among the United Empire Loyalists in Crown Lands Department as having a wife and one child on the provision list of Niagara in 1786. *Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 20, page 33 note.*

‡Lieut. John Turney of the Rangers in command at Upper Sandusky in 1782.

§Charles Lorty was once in the Indian Department and was made a lieutenant in 1780 by Gov. Sinclair at Michilimackinac. He was thought to be in the vicinity of New Orleans in 1801. *Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 10, page 65.*

¶Alexander McKee writes a letter dated "Shawanese County, Aug. 28, 1782," in which he describes the attack on Bryan's (Bryant's) Station and the battle at Blue Licks, Ky. *Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 20, pages 49-51.*

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 248.

Sandusky, 31st Aug. 1782.

Sir,

I have just received a letter from Mr. Dawson mentioning his having wrote you some time ago, and as Elliott does not stand to his agreement begs you'd send everything formerly ordered by us, to which please add 4 ps. Good Stroud, extraordinary, 4 doz. Scalping knives, 2 doz. pr. Scissors,—The Rangers by Capt. Caldwell's letter will be here in 6 or 7 days, as this party of Indians are arrived from them at whose request I lend the boat and send Jno. Dumford in her, that better care may be taken, and as there is now at Detroit one Hitchcock & Franks from here they will do to man the boat out with the things you have to send us the current price paid here by the trip to Detroit is 5£ per man and 2 Gals. Rum for the whole,—please send us 4 Ct Flour for which I send Baggs—and give the Charge of the boat to Jno. Dumford, he's a good lad and can be depended on.

Jose begged I would inclose you his Pass so as that you'd be kind enough to grant him another.

They have four oars, a sail and paddle marked T W. Poor LeBute was killed in the Battle at Cantuc,—very much regretted by all his acquaintances.

Should there be no Swan Skin or Pinnaston in our former
1 Duck Shott)
order please send 4 ps and 1 Goose Shott) And be so good as let none of the Articles be lacking that has been wrote for either in the present or former orders as now is the time for our business and its to be hoped we may meet with no interruption from others.

I am Sir in haste, yours,

W. ARUNDEL.

There is here about 700 red skins which you'll receive as soon as we get a boat load. Be so good as be as expeditious as possible in sending off the boat giving them charge to make no delay—and please send me some wine.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 2.

Sandusky, 6th Sept. 1782.

Sir,

Capt. Caldwell arrived here yesterday and the Draft which we have drawn on you favr Capt. Chabert* is at the request of Capt. Caldwell as he did not choose to draw, and all accounts here will soon be settled and money remitted to you as the Vessel is to return—I hope what things you have to send us may be sent immediately as the rangers are all naked and want necessities. Please send us 100 lbs. of the *Opposte* tobacco, and let me know if your goods is come up as I shall go in when they are to get the fall and winter assortment. I am Sir, in haste,

Yours,
WM. ARUNDEL.

Please let me know the price }
of Elk skins. }

I think its very hard the Capt. of the Vessel demands freight for the Peltry, etc., when I to oblige Govt., turned our own things out of store house to put the Provisions. I leave that matter for you to settle.

Letter to Thomas Williams, Esq.

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 13.

Sanduskey, 6th Sept. 1782.

Sir,

Mr. Dawson arrived here about 12 o'clock today, and we have nothing further to mention only to request you'd be sc good as complete order left by him with you, with all dispatch possible

*There were two Chaberts living at this time who might have been the captain here mentioned. Captain Phillipe Daniel Joncaire Chabert, commissioned a captain of volunteers with Lieut. Jonathan Sheiffelein in 1780, formed an expedition to attack the small stations on the Licking River, Ohio. He was also called Louis in the records. Phillipe was born at Montreal, Dec. 2, 1752, married at Detroit Feb. 12, 1783 to Judith Gouin and died April 30, 1793. The other was Charles Francis Chabert de Joncaire who was a brother of Philippe and was born in 1757. Francis married at Detroit, April 10, 1780, Mary Josette Chene and was buried at the same place Nov. 24, 1813. He was one of the prominent men of his day and acquired very valuable lands afterwards known as P. C. 42, land now occupied by the ship yard of the Great Lakes Engineering Co., and the Tecumseh Salt Co. In 1798 Francis was elected a member of the general assembly of the North West Territory which met at Cincinnati Feb. 4, 1799. Other members from Detroit were Solomon Sibley and Jacob Visger. *A History of Detroit by C. M. Burton (The Gateway, Feb. 1909); Denissen's Genealogies of Detroit Families in Manuscript; Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 20, page 225.*

and send off the Compy's boat load with the first of the articles that may come to hand, and as the vessel its thought may make another trip the rest can be sent in her, for fear of a mistake or disappointment if we can get hands we will send in a boat load of Peltry soon, so that what may require [torn] the assortmt. (after yr. sending the boat you have there, out) can come in the boat we send in, it may be W. A. may go in the [torn] but that's not certain, therefore must [torn] you'll be so good as send off as soon as possible the boat you have there and [torn] men as went [torn] last fall a la Chasse d'autumn.

As for news there's none here, all well and quiet, no signs of an enemy approaching the Indian Country, But however its not my business to say so, therefore you'd best not let my opinion be made known to any.—This I can say that if Capt. Caldwell was here, things would go better and more regular than they do.

We are, Sir,

Your Very Humble Servts,

ARUNDEL & DAWSON.

Per the first opportunity I'll send you a dozen of fine fowl—hens that will lay almost the winter.

And what W. A. wrote for in particular for himself begs you'll send him.

To Thos. Williams.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 41.

Sandusky, 8th Sept. 1782.

——Dawson arrived here yesterday evening

——Peltry will be here today from the Chawaney and Upper Town. There's no news here only Capt. Caldwell is encamped here with his Detachments, Capt. LaMotte* and Several Indian Officers. We are in great want of the things we wrote for which is to be hoped is on the way by this time.

*Guillaume laMothe (LaMotte, LaMothe) was a French-Canadian who volunteered in the British service during the Revolution. He was born in 1744 and in 1767 was trading in the vicinity of Detroit. In 1777 he was captain of a scouting party and in 1778 captain of militia. He was captured at Vincennes with Hamilton in 1779 and sent to Virginia, a prisoner of war. In 1782 he returned to Detroit and in 1783 petitioned to be discharged from service and recompensed for his suffering during captivity. In 1792 he was appointed interpreter at Mackinac and in 1796 retired with the British to St. Joseph Island where he remained interpreter until his death, Sept. 5, 1799. *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, Vol. 20; *Frontier Defense on the Upper Ohio by Thwaites and Kellogg*, pages 287-288.

Mr. Dawson intimates he wants to quit this concern immediately as soon as it can be settled, therefore you'll please to observe I cannot manage trade at different places alone if he quits it except the case was such as that there was to be but one Concern then I could manage it, But where there's two houses, different Concerns, it requires the greater attention and sharpness may have the satisfaction of [torn] the case Both for your good [torn] the meantime I am Dear Sir,

Your [torn]
WM. ARUNDEL.

Please send a pr. Scales & 1 lb. Weight
as by that I can make the rest.

To Williams

William Arundel to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 52.

Lower Sanduskey, 4 Oct. [1782]

Sir,

I received a letter from Mr. Dawson the other day; he mentioned nothing particular only that he'd be on by return of the Faith and that he advised me to make ready for a decampment as its thought the enemy will be here this Fall, it may be but I don't think so. However that need not hinder his preparations nor setting off with the things from Detroit as we can always get out of their way.

Robins & McCormick goes in, in a few days for their winter assortment. McCormick with ten or twelve pack horses and Mr. Robins by water, so that the more expeditious Mr. Dawson is the better, we'll want particularly the No. of shirts mented, or linen and trimmings sent instead, and Calicoe, 2 pr. embost flannel handsome pattern for Capt. Elliott. Please send me per the first opportunity should Mr. Dawson be gone before this reaches you, 4 boxes Duck & Goose shot, 2 ps. Russia sheeting, 1 lb. Brimstone, 1/2 lb. Alum,—our salt is almost out. And if the Calico and Linen mentioned in Mr. Dawson's order, shirts should be sent out unmade you'll please to augment the thread in proportion and send cambric for the fine linen.

We have here 11 Packs peltry made up and more on the way from the Chawney and U. Town. I cannot get a man to go to the Chawney Towns with Pierre for more Peltry we have there, so that Mr. Dawson will please to observe what losses we are at, at times here for want of hands, Dyon commands [torn] three following; Makien, Ste. Aubeh [torn] oulouse fils.

Be so good as send old Joseph Beaudoin a pass to live on the Island.

I long to hear from you to know whether our Governor is coming up or no, he has a great many talks against him here.

I am Sir,
Your Humble Servant,
WM. ARUNDEL.

Compliments to Mrs. Williams. }
Hope she and child well.* }

Please send me my Watch if mended.

Letter to Mr. Thomas Williams

William Dawson to William Arundel or Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 44.

Sandusky, 6th Nov. 1782.

Dear Sir,

On the arrival of the Windott I received your favour of the 27th of Oct., and sent by Capt. Gibson letters to you and T. W. Esq., which I hope you received safe with 6 Packs Peltry. I came to the Island to take an account of the goods there as I wrote you I should do the first opportunity, which account I inclose you as it was Mr. Williams' desire altho it gave me no little uneasiness, being from home 4 days, to augment my sorrow Capt. Elliott came here in my absence and took every horse I had mustered to go to the Shawney Towns with, as it was to serve his Majesty in taking up the ammunitions to that place I shall make free with the King's horses to that place and deliver them to C. Elliott at the same time I can perhaps receive our own. I have sent Indians out of hunting His Majesty's horses to gather them together if possible as I had orders from C. Bradt when he left this I expect to set off in 4 days to build a cabin at the Shawney Towns as I find there is no danger of the *Rebles* approaching here this season. Taymish Chesne came from Capt. McKee yesterday morning and says there is no ac-

*John R. Williams, son of Thomas, was born May 4, 1782. In 1799 he entered into partnership with his uncle, Joseph Campau, in Indian trade and later in the mercantile business. During the war of 1812 he was captain of an artillery company and at Hull's surrender became a prisoner. He was paroled and with his family moved to Albany where he remained until 1815 when he returned to Detroit and resumed business. He was author of the city charter of 1824 and first mayor of the city. On Oct. 25, 1804, he married Mary Mott, daughter of Maj. Gershom Mott and had ten children. He died Oct. 20, 1854. *Farmer's History of Detroit and Michigan, Vol. 2, page 1031.*

count of any further trouble this Fall, every person is gone to their respective homes, Capt. McKee and the Indians that was assembled at the Town of Sanduskey. I have Whittacre here at present to assist me and shall leave him in care of the shop if in case you don't arrive before I leave this, I am very busy in packing up for the Shawney Towns. The big Frenchman is sick, Pere Barrabee is sick, your Humble Servant and Dyon is the only People that are healthy in this house, thank God I have good health.

If the other boat is not set off from Detroit before you leave it get McCulping to make my clothes that he said he would not fail to send by the first opportunity you will please to remember to have no connection in Partnership at Upper Sandusky and the Shawney Towns as I have all that I can get that or the most part of it this winter in our own hands. It is expected there will be 2 French traders at or near the Little Island or the *Portash* River. Please to inquire before you leave the Fort what goods Drullard has is sufficient for the trade there this winter. I have taken Powder and Ball there the time the Windott left this pass (?) it is near 12 o'clock this evening I am almost sleepy don't forget to send me 4 Galls. *Pints* and 2 of Wine which is to go to the Shawney Town unopened.

W. D.[AWSON]

N. B. Please don't forget 2 Pair of Shoes for me, I am barefooted.

Wm. Arundle, Merchant at Detroit
or Thomas Williams Esq.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams & Co.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 61.

Sanduskey, 3rd December 1782.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed you have a small account against the Govt., which please have signed by Capt. Caldwell. I have not charged storage until first we should have your opinion on that head, so if you think fit to charge the storage our store house has always almost had things in since we have been here and in making a charge of £50 storage I think would be but a small recompense for the trouble we have had, however you are the best judge,

Capt. Gibson's account, 7..16..

Ante Chesne's " 3..

In cash - - - 8..15..

We have sent Capt. Caldwell's account currt to him and there is a balance of 304..19..7 coming to him for which we have

drawn on you, which you'll please pay him and charge the company with, Mr. Elliott in the absence of Dawson has taken our two barrels of Salt and four of our Horses with him, which has done us no small damage *disorted* our goods and we have no salt, so we request of you to send us a barrel out either by Swzore or Baron will bring it as they will come this way this winter if the ice is good or to the Island and Sanduskey. We don't want for neighbour traders now; Uno and Rivet at the Carrying Creek, Gevan has 6 small bales here and is now building a shop, goods he got from Mr. Abbott Baron's brother is here with £100 worth of goods, said bought from you. All these traders is doing us a great deal of damage.

Mr. Dawson is gone for the Shawney Towns, he would have been there some time ago, but the enemy coming to their Frontier towns, hindered him. We would be glad to know if Gov't would choose to buy any Corn here, we have about 200 bushels corn to spare now and can buy more if we have timely notices, so please enquire of the Major and the highest price he will give per bushel, we buy it at the rate of 2 Bucks per bushel therefore if we can sell it 24/ twill do pretty well. If Gov't may want all our goods here dispose of them, as the Indians has sent a petition for that purpose, they are almost naked.

I send in a red cow per the Rangers, they are to have a gallon of rum on delivering her, she has a blaze in her face, please dispose of her, she's a good cow, will calf soon. We send her in now to avoid trouble in the Spring, intending to leave this place, as early in the Spring as possible.

Wishing you a pleasant winter, I am Gentlemen,

Yours in haste,
WM. ARUNDEL.

To Thos. Williams & Co.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams & Co.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 818, page 63.

Sandusky 4th Jany. 1783.

Gentlemen

Inclosed you have the inventory as requested all except the horses, of which I cannot till they return from the Chawney Towns.

An Acct. Agt. L R. - - 2.. 8..1

Lt. Harkiman's Note for - 14..15..

A Dft. of Lorty's on which there's a Ballice. due, it may be if he would draw on his Fathr. at Quebec he may pay it, otherwise it would not be amiss to threaten him a little.

The acct. with P. Drouillard you'll please give it him on getting a receipt for the corn.

I wrote you some time ago requests to send a barrel of salt which I hope you send with the following articles—

1 ps. white molton
 1000 large broaches
 1 Ct. Flour, 100 pr. ear bobbs
 6 ps. B. Stroud Bd & Narrow
 Cord if possible
 1 Box Duck & Goose shot

The above is the last goods we intend to write for which cannot be done well without, and as the Upper & Shawney Towns has taken these articles from us we are disorted of them both here and at the Island where we expect to have some trade worth while and indeed would have been really so if it was not for so [many] peddling people coming to the [torn] and here,—they selling under the old price.

Please let me know if I may take upon me to send a small adventure to ye Grand River, without saying more about it.

Please let me if there's any hopes of a peace or if its really so, its talked of here but I can hardly believe it.

I am gentlemen yr. Hble
 Servt.

WM. ARUNDEL.

Please let me know the prices of
 Tallow pr. lb. }
 Smoaked skins }

Please let Mr. Harkiman know we have found his horse he lost here & if he chooses to take 10£ for him please credit it on his Acct. left with you. If he wont take that price if he chooses I can hire an Indian to take him.

William Arundel to Thomas Williams & Co.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol, 818, page 64.

Sanduskey, 11th Jany. 1783.

Gentlemen,

The Bearer Mr. Revett is going in with a load of meat from his place, and I have agreed with him to bring out the things wrote for, the pack horses were here yesterday from the Chawney Towns, and I was obliged to borrow a ps. Stroud from Gevan to send Mr. Dawson, so that if its possible to send 2 or 3 ps more than mentioned in the last memo., twill be so much the better. We shall want likewise 1 ps. Swan Skin, 12 pr. Com

2½ pt. Blankets 7 pr. fine do., 400 needles, 2 of No. 1—1 of No. 2 & 1 of No. 5 & 3 ps. Calico which will be all that will be wanting to assort what we have on hand, otherwise we wont be able to do as well as our neighbours. Please send 4 gals. Rum and let me know the price as its for Dyon.

Whitaker* would be obliged to you if you'd please send him the same quantity and charge it to his account, directing the keg for him. He has married a prisoner girl lately, and with the above intends to get her entirely clear from the Indians—Mr. Robins married them.

I am. with Compliments to Mrs. Williams, Gentlemen,

Your Humble Servant,

WM. ARUNDEL.

You have the inventory of what of the Horses we have in possession, the others are not yet found, but have heard, the Big horse we got from Mr. Williams in exchange for the Black is lost since last Summer in August.

Arundel & Dawson to Thomas Williams & Co.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 842, page 17.

Sanduskey 6th Feb. 1783

Gentn

We have been favd. with yrs. of the 25th. Ultio. But are sorry to be disappointed in the Std. it will be a great loss to us, I am informed theres plenty at Mr. Abbotts (Andrews and one lafontaine, I dont know but we may be obliged to pay Gevan in peltry for what we Borrowed of him so it will goe hard with us if we have not 5 or 6 ps.—please send us pr the Bearer 1 1/2 lbs. tea and the remainder of the Broaches if to be had—this will reach you before Rivett setts off from Dt. so we are in hopes you'll try & get us Some Stroud—

It is a little drole we are obliged to give security for our trade here and Gevan under pay & trading gives none, this is a small observation Sans dessin.

*James Whitaker was stolen by the Wyandot Indians when a young man, carried to the Sandusky region and adopted by the tribe. Shortly after Elizabeth Foulks was captured in Western Pennsylvania by the same Indians and also adopted. They were married as stated in this letter and the Indians gave them 1200 acres of choice farming lands on the Sandusky River, afterwards known as the Whitaker farm. Mr. Whitaker became an Indian trader. He had a family of eight children and in 1800 hired a teacher to instruct the older ones. His eldest daughter was sent to Pittsburgh where she was qualified to teach her younger brothers and sisters. Mr. Whitaker died very suddenly in his 48th year, Dec. 17, 1804. *Ohio Arch. and Hist. Soc., Vol. 13, pages 210, 230 and Vol. 17, page 425.*

Please let me know if I can send a la Grand Riviere to ye mouth of it to trade without a Pass if not be so Good as send one as theres twenty Lodges a hunting (there) since last fall of the Lake Indians besides some Delawares & they come down in March.

Please let me know what prices the following will Bring.

Mixed fats	} Should anything occur regarding the peace Com-	municating the same would much oblige ye hble
Drest Skins		
Indian Sugar		
	serts.	ARUNDEL & DAWSON.

We will not depend on Govt for the Sale of our corn, but dispose of it to the best advantage here.

James Whitaker to Thomas Williams.

Burton Historical Collections, Manuscript Vol. 817, page 160.

Sanduskey, 20 May 1783.

Sir,

I sha'll be glad you will send me 1 Kegg of Rum 4 gallons, and one of 2 gallons

One white Beaver Hat for my Wife, and 2 black beaver hats.

1 lb. Bohea Tea, the tea you sent Mr. Dawson to the Shawney Town received 1/4 lb. only. The tea please charge Mr. Dawson. I am, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,
J. WHITAKER.

Thomas Williams, Esq.,
Detroit.

DOCUMENTS ON EARLY INDIANA HISTORY.

(Continued from page 336.)

them dry. The order of encampment was the order of Battle for a night attack and as every man slept opposite to his post in the line there was nothing for them to do but to rise and take their post a few steps in the rear of their fires and the line was formed in an instant. So little time was required for this operation that if the guard on the left flank had done its duty as well as the rest of the army the troops on that flank would have been formed before the Indians came near them. It was my custom every evening as soon as the army halted to examine the ground of the encampment and environs and afterwards to call together the field officers of the army and give them their directions for the night. At these meetings (where every one was required freely to express their sentiments) every contingency that was likely to happen was discussed. The orders that were proper to be given to them were then by the field officers repeated to the Captains Every one being by these means possessed of my intentions there was no room left for mistake or confusion. The orders given on the night of the 6th were solely directed to a night attack—the officers were directed in case of such an attack to parade there men in the order which they were encamped & that each Corps should maintain itself upon its own ground until other orders were given—with regulations such as these and with such a state of discipline which we claim, you must allow my dear Sir we had no reason to dread a “night incursion” more than an attack by day—Indeed it was preferable because in no other could it have been so completely decisive—In the latter we might have lost as many men as we did lose without having killed a third as many of the enemy. In my letter to the Secretary it is asserted that the Indians had penetrated to the Center of encampment. I believe however that not more than two Indians got within the lines—More were certainly killed near the center of the Camp but it must have been from Volly fired from without.

From this letter and my official despatch to the Secretary of War you will be enabled my dear General to form a correct opinion of the battle of Tippecanoe. When an action is over and we have time to mediate upon the circumstances that allowed it there is no great judgment necessary to discover some error in the conduct of it. Something that was done which might have been better done or something that was omitted which if done might have produced great advantages. I believe the greatest Generals have admitted that they could fight a second battle upon the same ground much better than the first. If this is

true with respect to *them* ought it not to be a motive to shield me from that severity of Criticism with which some of my fellow Citizens are desirous of scanning my conduct. A Victory has been gained and the army which gained it imputed in part at least to the measures of the Commander—but this is not sufficient—it should have been achieved without loss on our side. There is certainly no man more fully impressed with the exalted merits of those brave men who fell in action than I and amongst them were many for whom I felt the warmest regard and friendship—But they were exposed to no dangers but what was common to the whole army—and if they were selected by divine providence as the price of an important Victory there is nothing left us but to honor their memory & to bow submissively to a decree which we can not alter. It would however embitter the remaining part of my life if I could suppose that their fate was produced by any misconduct of mine. But upon this subject I have nothing to accuse myself. I am satisfied that all my weak powers were exerted to the utmost for the safety and glory of my troops. Indeed no commander had ever greater reason to do so—for none ever received greater marks of confidence and attachment from an army than I did—Many of the Corps forgetful of their danger seemed only anxious for me and a sentiment springing from personal attachment alone was imputed by them to a belief that their fate was intimately connected with mine. For such troops it was impossible that I should not be willing to shed the last drop of my blood.

Your friendship my dear General will pardon egotism contained in my letter. Perhaps I ought to disregard the Idle tales that have been circulated to my prejudice—knowing as I do that there are not a few persons who served under me upon the late expedition that will not be ready to contradict them. I have not sufficient stoicism however to rest easy under unmerited reproach—and with the consciousness of having rendered some service to my Country I cannot bear to be deprived of the good opinion of my fellow Citizens.

With the greatest Regards I am Dr. Sir
your friend &
Hbl Sevt.

[WM. H. HARRISON.]

P. S.

I should have covered my troops every night with a breast work of trees but axes were so scarce (after having procured every one that the Territory afforded) that it was with difficulty that a sufficiency of wood could be procured to make the men comfortable—and the Militia were without tents and many of them without blankets. The story circulated in some of the papers of officers fighting in their shirt tails is absolutely untrue—

Governor Harrison to Be Killed.

From the Western Sun, Vincennes, December 21, 1811.

On Thursday last the Owl a Miami chief arrived at this place, being sent by a party of Indians which are encamped about 40 miles from this place to know whether the governor would receive a deputation from the Kickapoos and Winebagos, who were in the late action, and who had solicited the chiefs of the Wea tribe to intercede with the governor to grant them an interview— We are informed that the governor declined receiving their visit, and declared that he would listen to no propositions for peace until the Prophet, and all his followers, who did not properly belong to the Wabash were removed from the country.

Last evening Mr. McCollough, whom the Gov. had sent express to Ft. Wayne returned, he there saw the chief who came to meet the Governor from the Prophet's town, the night before the action. The man informed Mr. McCollough that it was at first intended by the Indians to meet the Governor in a conference, as they promised, with the intention of assassinating him— That one of the Winebago warriors had agreed to devote himself for that purpose, when the conference ended he was to watch an opportunity, and kill the Governor—when this was done they supposed that the army could easily be defeated. The information given by the negro who deserted was the occasion of the attack being made at night.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 24th. December 1811

Sir,

The enemies of the Administration in Kentucky have endeavoured to raise a clamour from some supposed defect in the planning or in the execution of the late Expedition. Altho, I believe that the people generally pay very little attention to what there gentry say, I have nevertheless thought it proper to elucidate some of the circumstances which have caused their animadversion in a letter to my friend Govr. Scott; a copy of which I have the honor herewith to enclose. I cannot believe that any man of judgment who is the least acquainted with Indian Warfare and

who knew the strength of the position occupied by the Indians, can suppose that we could have gained anything by attacking the Town on the evening of our arrival. *We might have carried it.* but I am fully persuaded that our loss would have been much greater than it was—Indeed had we fought them any where *by day* upon ground of their own choosing, we should I believe have beaten them; but their loss of men would have been comparatively small to ours. This has been the case in every action of note that has been fought with the Indians. Genl. Harmer plumed himself upon having killed one third or one fourth as many Indians as they killed of his men and in the action of Genl. Wayne, one hundred and thirty or forty of our men were killed and wounded—and I am persuaded that there were not more than twenty Indians killed. When pressed by our Troops they escaped with so much agility altho there were little short of 2000 Dragoons and mounted riflemen they were not able to overtake them. So great were the advantages which I suppose we should derive in a night attack from our discipline, our bayonets and buckshot that I must confess I had an idea that we should even be attached in that way—I shall however blush at my own want of prudence if any thing was omitted to guard against the success of such an attack, which ought to have been done upon probabilities which I had before me that it would be made. If I had placed pickets of observation without any chain of centinels it would have been easy for the enemy to evade them, or to have cut them off. Our safety consisted in having the Troops prepared for action at a moments warning. They could not have been better prepared unless I had made them pass the whole night under arms—I confess that I had no idea that this was more necessary than it had been for many nights before—Indeed I thought it less so—and I believe that I may with safety say that there was not an officer, perhaps not a man, in the Camp of a different opinion. But notwithstanding this the order of encampment was intended to resist a night attack. The orders given were directed to the same point—& the great facility with which the troops were formed shews that they had been well instructed—and well understood what they were to do, and excepting the two companies of Barton and Guiger, the rest of the troops could not have been in better order than they were in, when they were fired on, if they had stood at their posts the whole night.

Since I had the Honor to write to you by the last mail the Owl A celebrated Miami chief arrived here, to know whether I would receive some Winebagos and Kickpoos, who were waiting his return at about a days journey from this with several of the war Chiefs. My answer was that I did not wish to see them here at present—being anxious to know the Presidents determination with regard to them before I took any further measures. The Owl confirms the opinion which I had before

entertained that all the Potowatameis who reside on the Wabash (excepting the Chief Winemac) were in the action. He says he saw the warriors from both the Villages above the Prophets Town going to join him the day before action and that it was with the greatest difficulty that the young men of his own tribe could be prevented from joining him also. Amongst the Potowatamies were some men whom I had particularly cherished, indeed the chiefs and warriors of both those villages had partaken more largely of the bounty of the U. States, dispersed by my hand, than any others. Their conduct and that of the Miamis unequivocally prove that the inclinations of the Indians were entirely on the side of the Prophet—and that it was high time their establishment was broken up. My opinion is that they should not too easily be admitted to our favour again—and I regret exceedingly that Mr. Johnson should have been so precipitate in Delivering the annuities at Fort Wayne. I have temporised with the Indians for the purpose of gaining time—that the Government may decide what is to be done. The course that I would recommend is that the Miamis, Potawatamies and Kickapoos be made to drive the Prophet and all the strange Indians from the Wabash. It may however be necessary to embody a respectable force to back them and to prevent those *vagabonds* from turning upon our settlements—All the accounts that I have received from the Indian Country agree in stating the entire dispondence of the Prophets party—and their disinclination for further hostilities—It is however pretty certain that the Winebagoos have not returned home as the Kickapoos asserted—and it is possible that the return of Tecumseh, who is daily expected will produce other dispositions

In my letter of the 26th ulto I had the Honor to inform you that from the aspect of our relations with the Indians I had determined to retain the command of the Troops untill I should hear from you. As however the Militia have all been dismissed—and no immediate danger apprehended I have relinquished the control over them which I had retained. But upon the occurrence of any event to make it necessary or upon the receipt of your orders to that effect, I will with cheerfulness resume it—There is indeed but *a single* circumstance which makes the command disagreeable to me.

I have the Honor to be with great respect

Sir

Your Humble Servt.

WILLM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble.

William Eustis

Secretary of War.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 28th. Dec. 1811

Sir

A Mr. Fowler arrived here from New Port the evening before last with some groceries, medicines and other necessities for the sick and wounded—Nothing of this kind has been wanting hitherto and I am happy to inform you that all the wounded, one perhaps only excepted are in a fair way to recover and that there has been but one death within the last fortnight—The *enclosed letter* from Captain Snelling with the Indian talks which it contains, came to me by an express since the Departure of the last mail—It is another evidence of the complete discomfiture of the Prophets party—I have desired Capt. Snelling to permit the Stone Eater only to come here, by whom I will send an answer to the others. Before he leaves this I hope to receive your directions with regard to the course which is to be pursued with the late hostile Indians.

It is impossible Sir that I should be insensible to the torrent of abuse which has been levelled at me by some of the papers—What we call here a glorious victory—such a one as in the opinion of Govr. Edwards, Govr. Howard, Genl. Clark, and generally of the whole mass of Citizens will produce the most important beneficial consequences to the western country and to the U. States, has been termed a most distressing disaster—“a horrible butchery—” If these observations had been confined to the federal prints I should have disregarded them,—but none of them have been more rancorous than the paper called the Baltimore Whig—In my official accounts it has been my aim to conceal no circumstances whatever even if it should militate against myself—I have indeed made statements which have had that tendency, when there was no necessary for it, and which upon further enquiry I found to be totally incorrect—I have asserted that the Indians penetrated to and killed men near the center of the Camps—I was led to the error because I knew that a few Indians had entered the camp. I now find that there but two, at most, who had passed into Camp near the left angle,—but they were killed within twenty yards of the line—and I knew also that men were killed and wounded quite in the interior of the Camp, but every one agrees that it must have been from Balls that came from without.

I have said also that men were killed coming out of their tents. Capt. Barton informs me that the two tents on the right of his company were fired into before the men got out—but the rest were formed before they received any injury—Capt. Guiger had but one tent—one of his men was killed in the mouth of this, and another killed an Indian—and this with a slight wound himself, was all the injury his Company received untill they were formed in the rear of their fires Thirteen men who *joined us the day before the action* were attached to Guigers Company and posted on his left, joining to Bartons, were broken and run off on the first alarm (two or three excepted) and it was this circumstance which caused the great injury to Bartons Company—I do aver that the Troops upon the front, rear and left flank were completely formed before they were fired on. The left flank which suffered most were formed some minutes before they received a shot. It could not have been more than one minute and a half from the first alarm, (and Mr. Adams who attended me thinks it was not as long, before I led up myself two companies, completely formed to the assistance of Barton and Guiger—But admitting that something more might have been done by me to ascertain the approach of the enemy, it appears from the above statement, that we sustained very little injury by the suddenness of their attack—In my letter from the Battle ground I have said that there was at first some little confusion before the Troops were formed—I read this letter to Colo. Boyd at the time, and he asserted that there was none, that there never was an army formed quicker or in better order. It is possible that the Colo. may since have changed his opinion. With regard to my own conduct and the measures taken to secure the victory after action commenced, I must refer you to the Declaration of the field officers and the Resolutions of six Militia Companies here with enclosed—I have been very much misinformed if the sentiments they contain are not common to all the Platoon officers of the 4th Regt.

I have the Honor to be very respectfully

Sir

your obt. Servt.

WILLM HENRY HARRISON

The Honorable
The Secretary of War

P. S. for the satisfaction of the people I have caused the letter from Capt. Snelling & the Indian Speeches to be published and having no one at hand to copy them I have enclosed herewith the newspaper which contains them

W. H. H.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 1st. Jany. 1812

Sir

My friend Thomas Randolph Esq. who fell in the late action acted as Judge Advocate of the Genl. Court Martial which sat at this place last Spring and from the suggestions of one of the officers he made out an account and drew upon you for \$156 in favor of Messrs. Jones & Dubois of this place—the draft was protested but the account has since been settled by the accountant and the sum of 78 Dollars allowed him which had been transmitted here by the Treasurer (Since Mr. Randolph's death) in a treasury draft payable to Mr. Randolphs order. It was his intention that Messrs. Jones & Dubois should receive whatever was allowed him (as they had actually advanced him \$156 upon his draft) & they received authority from him to take out of the office & open the letter which he expected to receive from the accountant and appropriate the money which it was expected to contain to their use—but as the draft was payable to Mr. Randolphs order they can make no use of it. They have therefore applied to me as the nearest friend of Mr. Rs who has for several years made a part of my family to devise some made (means) for their relief. I can think of none that is likely to answer the purpose but to request you to accept the draft of Mr R to the amount of seventy eight Dollars & pay the money to the bank to which it has been assigned. For this purpose I have the Honor to enclose the draft of Mr Randolph on you and the Treasurers draft for the 78 Dolls.

Mr. Randolphs affairs were so deranged and his property of so little value that it is not thought proper to administer upon it. His wife has been in a state of mental derangement for many months. Her nearest friends have recommended to me to adopt the measures which I am now taking with regard to his claims on the war department.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Sir your
Hum Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble
William Eustis Esq.
Secy of War

Oliver G. Burton to William Henry Harrison.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes Jany. 5, 1812

Sir

By sentence of a G. C. Martial in July 1810 Capt. Baen was suspended from rank, pay etc. for one year, previous to which he was entitled to a Majority. his suspension in all probability prevented his being promoted the last session of Congress. this suspension of Capt. Baen suspended my promotion for the same time, as I should have succeeded to the Comd. of his Compy. Capt Baen being unfortunate in the action on Nov. 7th., 1811 leaves the vacancy to which he was entitled to be filled by a Capt. not of the 4th. Regt. and of Course a Subaltern of the Same Regt. will fill the Vacancy caused by the promotion of the Capt. This Sir deprives me of rank, pay etc as Capt. from May or June 1810 to Sept. 1811, not through my falt (I hope) but the misfortunes of Capt. Baen. I have thought proper to submit the above statement to your Consideration and Should Consider it as an unfieigned favour if you woul have the goodness to represent the same (together with your interest on the subject) to the proper department

I am with sentiments of esteem

Respectfully

Sir your obt. Servt.

O. G. BURTON,

Lt. 4th. Infy.

Wm. H. Harrison Esq.

Gov. of Indiana Territory.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 6th Jany, 1812.

Sir

The ardent desire which I feel to serve those brave men who fought under my Command in the late action with the Indians may be the occasion of my giving you more trouble than I ought to do. But the motive which governs me will I am persuaded, with you, form a sufficient apology.

From the enclosed letter of Lieut. Burtons of the 4th. Regiment it appears that he is likely to suffer materially in his rank by the unfortunate fall of Capt. Baen. If it were possibly consistently with the rules which govern such cases to date Mr. Burtons Commission as Captain from the day that the Majority became vacant to which Capt. Baen would have succeeded it appears to me that it could not be considered an injustice towards any other person. Lieut. Burton is a sober steady industrious & Brave officer.

Captain James Hunter who Commands an uniformed Light Infantry Militia Company in the town of Louisville Kentucky wishes to become a Captain in one of the Infantry Regmts. which are about to be raised. Capt. H entered as a private Volunteer in the Company which was raised by Colo. Guiger for the late Campaign in the neighbourhood of Louisville and acted after he joined the army as Adjutant to the Mounted Rifle men. I am very well acquainted with Capt. Hunter but I have no doubt of his making an good officer he behaved extremely well in the action & was wounded in the arm.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Sir your

Hum Servt.

WILLM H. HARRISON

Honble

William Eustis Esq

Secy. of War

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 29th. April 1812

Sir,

In a letter which I had the honor to write to you in the night of the 22nd. inst. I communicated the information which I had just then received of the murder of a family upon the Embarras River about 5 miles from this place—the report proved but too true. On the succeeding day Colo. Miller went to the spot with a Detachment of the regular troops & buried the Bodies of Mr. & Mrs. Harryman, and five small children. A violent rain which fell the night after these murders were committed rendered it impossible for the detachment of mounted men which were sent in pursuit of the Indians, to discover the route they had taken. On the 14th Inst. another family was attacked by

the Indians a few miles from the Ohio, about 10 miles below the yellow bank and about 75 from this place, the owner of the house was killed and one of his sons badly wounded, another son however with the assistance of the women of the family killed one of the 3 Indians and drove off the others. I have not been able to ascertain the Tribes to which the parties belong which have committed any of the late murders. It appears to me however to be very evident that their design is to distract and divide our attention to prevent the militia from embodying and certainly no plan could be more successful than that which they have fallen upon. The murder committed near the Ohio where I supposed that there would be no danger, even in the midst of an Indian War has so alarmed the people in that quarter that it would be impossible to make the militia turn out, to march to the protection of any other place. the killing of the man upon the driftwood fork of White River has produced similar effects in all the Settlements Eastwardly and Southwardly of that place.

It is impossible Sir, to give you an adequate Idea of the alarm and distress which these murders have produced—the account transmitted to you by Governor Edwards of the situation of the Illinois territory after the murders were committed there last year, affords a better picture than I can draw of the scenes which are daily exhibited here—families abandoning their homes & flying they know not whither, and many of them without any means of support, are seen in every direction. Nor is the situation of this town by any means such as offers security to the fugitives. The expected departure of the Regular troops and the revival of the design by the Prophet and his Party (as communicated by Mr Shaw) to surprise it by a Water expedition, causes it to be viewed as a place of greater danger than any other and the fugitives pass through it as expeditiously as possible—I have formerly described to you its situation and the impossibility of defending it with its own militia—and under the present alarm it is impossible to get a single company nearer than the neighbourhood of the falls of Ohio. For offensive operations I believe the men would turn out willingly & I understand that the People of Kentucky and Tennessee are anxiously waiting for an order to that effect.

The company of Rangers have been so much employed in Detachments for some time past as to allow no opportunity for mustering them. It was however done yesterday and I have made such a distribution of them, as appeared to me to be best calculated to secure the settlements from surprise. I have so placed them that the Country to the North West North and East of this place in advance of all the Settlements will be reconnoitered daily for nearly one hundred and fifty miles. If they do their duty it will be impossible for any large number of Indians to pass them unobserved and very difficult for a small party but there is still a considerable frontier below us and above

(through the Delaware Country) that is entirely exposed nor can the Rangers give us here timely notice of the approach of an enemy by Water as they can descend the Wabash much faster at this season in their Canoes than a horse can travel—conformably to the Idea suggested in my letter of the 15th. inst. I have thought it proper to send a special Messenger to the Delawares—I selected for the purpose Major Davis Floyd, who is well acquainted with the chiefs and I do myself the honor to enclose you a copy of his Instructions which were accidentally omitted to be sent by the last mail—since his departure a man of the Tribe has arrived here with letters from Connor and Capt. Hendrick's and a speech from the Chiefs, the object of all these was to assure me that the Delawares had no hand in the late murders that that Committed on Driftwood was intended to implicate them, and induce us to take satisfaction of them which would be the means (as the hostile Indians expected) to force the Delawares to take part with them in the War. The Murderers as the Delawares say were Potowattimes on their return they passed near to the lower town of the former on White River, and were seen by some of the Women. They were tracked in that direction by some of our people and it will take proof equal to that of holy Writ to convince them that they were not Delawares. I have and shall continue to do every thing in my power to prevent this impression from becoming General. There are two very powerful considerations for preserving the neutrality of the Delawares if it be possible. In the first place the uncommon faithfulness with which they have fulfilled all the engagements they have entered into with us deserves every proper forbearance on our part & in the next place the bravery of their Warriors and their intimate acquaintance with our Settlements would enable them to do much more mischief than twice the number of any other Tribe. The Delaware who was here says that he has no doubt of their compliance with the wishes of the President even if they should extend to the making war upon the other tribes.

I have given the agent at Fort Wayne directions to make a proposition to the Miamis similar to that which I have sent to the Delawares. I suppose you are regularly informed from Fort Wayne of every thing that passes in that quarter.

The Delaware Indian who was here informs me that there is a large body of Indians from the Mississippi below the Tippecanoe. He calls them Seux

I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Humble Servt.

WILLM HENRY HARRISON

To the Honoble

Wm. Eustis Esqr.

Secretary of War.

James Noble to William Henry Harrison.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Brookville May 6th, 1812

To his Excellency William Henry Harrison Governor of the
Indiana Territory

Sir

I send you a copy of the speech made by the Delaware chiefs at White river, and a copy of Jno Conners letter, which reached me shortly after the general orders for the militia. The minds of the people are much agitated, upon the reports of the different murders, committed on the frontiers of our Territory by the Indians together with the news contained in the speech of the Dellawares, and Conners letter, as it respects the Pottawattemies. and the Dellawares I suppose or some other tribes of Indians now and then on our frontiers also the raising of the Militia in the state of Ohio to march to the North, has created such alarm, that a number of families have left the Country, and in order to prevent the whole of the Inhabitants on the west fork white river, from moving away, and to quiet the minds of the people, tomorrow morning thirty men of the rifle company under the command of Capt. Herndon will march up the west fork of White Water, and act as rangers, stationed at two Block-houses fifteen at each, where they will be supported, and remain until I hear from you. In some part of the country five & six families have come together, given up all pretensions of making a crop on their own farms. If those men are to be kept out in service, you will be good enough to chalk out the method by which they are to be supported & paid. I hope the minds of the people will soon be at rest, everything has been done in my power to reconcile the people. Upon the receipt of Conners letter, I wrote him, advising the Dellawares, to keep clear of our settlements, they might be injured through mistake, and at the same time observed that confidence was placed in them by you sir. Doctor Eastman Just arrived in this place states that a man was killed and scalped near Eaton State of Ohio about forty miles from this place a party had gone out in pursuit of the Indians that had done it, I have raised detachments from my Regt. sixty men & four sergeants from each Battl. and designated by whom to be commanded, & to be in readiness together with the rifle company, also appd. the place for rendezvous, block houses are erecting in the bounds of each company district, & two or three men of each company are ranging as far as the

company extends. I send sir, a rough return of the strength of my Regt. you will readily see the deficiency of arms and amunition, which is the only difficulty with me. I am placed in a very unpleasant situation a number of the inhabitants offended with me for not ordering out a larger body of the militia. I am sorry to see the counrty depopulating, most distant idea with me that the difficulty will be great with the Indians if the Dellawares remain friendly. Please to give me the particulars, as to the prospect of Arms &. I am sir with

sentiments of

respect your f d

JAMES NOBLE

In haste &.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 6th May 1812.

Sir

On Sunday evening last a party of Indians attacked a house on White River about 35 miles from this place. Killed the owner (Mr Jno McGowan) but were driven off without doing any further injury. Most of the citizens in this Country have abandoned their farms and taken refuge in such temporary forts as they have been able to construct. Nothing can exhibit more distress than those wretched people crowded together in places almost destitute of every necessary accommodation. Unless something can be done soon to enable the people to return to their farms I fear that there will be little or no corn planted this season. On the 2nd, Inst. I received a letter from Mr. Stickney containing the result of the Council lately held at Fort Wayne which has no doubt been communicated to you. This letter was brought to Fort Harrison by an Indian who was employed by Mr. Stickney for the purpose. On his way he was joined by Chief Winemac with nine other Potawatomias. They were very desirous of coming here but were properly retained by Capt. Snelling

I have refused to suffer them to come farther because I am convinced they would be killed in despite of any endeavours of mine to prevent it. I also suspect that there are spies amongst them sent by the Prophet. These people were at Fort Harrison when the murder was committed on McGowan & very probably by a part of the same tribe. It is thus that we are served by these scoundrels whilst some of them are making warm professions of

friendship & enjoying our hospitality others are murdering our citizens. The people of this town & neighbourhood are in great alarm & consternation since the arrival of the order from Colo. Miller to march & they expect with great anxiety the adoption of some measure by the Government for their protection.

There is no artillery of any description in this Territory. A few of those small pieces which were cast for Genl. Waynes army a number of which must be Massac or Newport and which are fit for nothing else would be serviceable in defending the forts against the attacks of Indians

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect

Sir

Yr Humbl Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

the Honble

Willm Eustis Esq.

Secy of War.

James Noble to William Henry Harrison.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

A Brief return of the Strength of the 7th Regt. I. Ty M (commd.) by Lieut Col. Comd. James Noble) To the Commander in chief of the Militia of I. Territory.

Privates 540 Rifles 214 pounds of powder 68¾

Balls 1212 pounds of lead 55 Flints 337 Powder horns & shot pouches 198, Companies 9

The above number of privates exclusive of non commissd. officers.

To his excellency William H. Harrison Governor of Indiana Territory

Sir

You discover that I have not named the number of officers in my Regt. the reason of it, but few commissd. in it, I hope you will excuse me, until I can if ever, have it full of officers, there will be a district formed on the west fork white water, for a Company to be consd. as infantry, and so soon as officers can be elected, will call for commissions. Please to send a Commission for Thos Clark Lieut. and Wm. Morgan Ensign. If you should deem it proper it might save you trouble, send a parcel of blanks, I will attend strictly to them, the bearer Mr. J. U. Morrison formerly commd. a rifle company previous to the division of Dearborn, but some time ago resigned, in consequence of it, a

light company was raised, in the 1s. Battl. Morrison residing therein I think proper to mention the circumstance. If you have concluded to send the commissions I wrote for some time ago please to let the bearer have them

I am Dear sir

Your sincere frd

JAMES NOBLE

May 7th 1812.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes May 13th. 1812

Sir

An express has just arrived from the County of Franklin in this Territory, by which I have received a speech made by the Delaware Chiefs to Conner the Interpreter of that Tribe, and a letter from Conner to a Col. Noble of the Militia, informing him of a party of Potawatamies having passed this town and taken the direction of our settlements, with an intention as the Delaware supposed of committing hostilities. Their opinion happens to be but too well founded, as it appears from the letter of Col. Noble, which I do myself the honor to enclose, that a citizen of the state of Ohio was killed about the 1st of this month near Eaton about forty miles from the Colonels residence.

I am perfectly at a loss as to the orders proper to be given in the present state of the country—I do not conceive myself authorised to order out any militia at the expense of the United States—I had hoped that the Eastern Settlements would have escaped the Indian Depredations; but it appears that they are determined to diffuse their favours as widely as possible—from the motive no doubt which was suggested in a former letter, viz, that of distracting our attention, and thereby preventing the Militia from embodying. Altho the people of this part of the Territory are generally in Forts it is impossible to make any disposition of a Company of Rangers to prevent small parties of Indians from penetrating the Settlements to do mischief—and our line of frontier is so extensive that even the kind of protection which the Rangers do afford, cannot be extended to more than one fourth of it. I must beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed statement of the deficiency of arms in Col. Nobles Regt. Great as it is I believe that there are more arms reported in it than in any of the 8 Regiments in the Territory, excepting the two in this county, amongst whom the 500 muskets which

were forwarded to me have been distributed. Numbers of the Militia would purchase Guns, but they are not to be had in the western country, and our sole dependance is upon the public arsenals. A few days ago two Wea Chiefs arrived here, being dispatched as they said by the Winebagos to inform me that several chiefs of that tribe had arrived on the Wabash with the intention of going to visit the President, but that they were apprehensive that the late murders committed, as they said, entirely by the Potawatamies, would prevent them from being permitted to proceed. I have no idea of the least sincerety in this declaration—and I am also persuaded that the Weas were sent in as spies—I gave them assurances however of their being well received—and committed to them a letter to the agent at Fort Wayne directing him to provide the means of sending them on should they apply to him for that purpose.

The Territory is depopulating very fast and will no doubt continue to do so untill effectual measures are taken for its protection.

There is some great deficiency in the Mail between this and the seat of Government—proceeding from, a part of it being retained at some of the officies, in consequence its being too heavy for the ordinary conveyance. The Envelope which covered the appointments of Captain Chun and his subalterns had the Washington post mark of the 16th. ultimo, but it did not reach this place untill yesterday.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir

Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

P. S. The information given by the party of Potawatamies mentioned in my last to Captain Taylor at Fort Harrison was that the Prophet was in the neighbourhood of his former residence with about 300 Winebagoes and about 200 of other Tribes—and that he was daily gaining strength.

The Honble

William Eustis

Secy of War

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes May 27th. 1812

Sir,

Since I had the Honor to write to you on the 13th. Inst. no further mischief has been done by the Indians that has come to my knowledge. There have however been several parties within the settlements and a detachment of Militia are now in pursuit of four that were discovered about 7 miles from this place the evening before last. The Indians are much favoured in their retreat from the unusual witness of this season, which enables them to travel for miles in ponds or overflowed low grounds.

Yesterday evening I received a Dispatch from Capt. Taylor containing the Speeches of Lapousier and Stone Eater, who have just arrived as they say from Mississiniway by the way of the Prophets Town—They assert that the Council at the former place terminated in an unanimous Resolution upon the part of the Tribes who were present to remain at peace with the United States. Their speeches contain much profession of friendship, but not one word upon the subject of the Chiefs going to Washington, or the delivery of the murderers—one or both of which was required by me, as the only evidence that could be relied upon of their disposition to remain at peace with us.

I daily expect more correct information from Fort Wayne. I have heard nothing of Mr. Floyd since the 2nd. Inst. He was then at the Delaware Town. I am a little apprehensive for his personal safety, as a man of the Delaware Tribe was very unnecessarily and improperly killed near the Ohio in this County since Floyds departure.

I have the Honor to be, with great respect Sir

Your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble.

William Eustis

Secy. of War.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes June 3rd., 1812

Sir,

I had the Honor this day to receive yr. favour of the 13 & 14th Ultimo. By the same conveyance I also received from Colo. Russell who is gone to the Red banks to March across a Company of Rangers whom he expects to meet at that place. The Colo. in his letter to me says "My own opinion has always been "to defend the frontier in the best manner for the safety of the "Inhabitants is always to carry the war into their own Country. "Should you sir be able to ascertain the Towns that are unfriendly I would without being better informed deem it my duty "to embody the Rangers and one Company of the Troops, & "move against them & burn & distroy any such town."

If Colo. Russell has any instructions to commence offensive operations I should be thankful to be informed how far it is expected that my opinions & advice are to govern or contrroll his measures.

I do not by any means wish to share any responsibility that the Government should think proper to impose upon me. But it appears to me that unless the Colo. possesses instructions that are very different from those which I have had the honor to receive (which refer altogether to defensive measures) I should not sanction or even permit so decisive a step as he speaks of.

But if any advice or assistance of mine shall be deemed of importance to the Colonel or to any other person to whom may be committed the task of repelling or chastising the aggressions of the Indians, I beg leave to assure you Sir that it shall be afforded with frankness & candour.

I have the honor to be & with great respect

Sir

Yr Humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble.

Willm. Eustis, Esq.

Sec. of War.

William Henry Harrison to William Eustis, Esq.

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 3rd. June 1812

Sir,

I have no information of any recent depredations committed by the Indians and you will have been informed by the agent at Fort Wayne that the council at Mississiniway resulted in a determination by a large majority to remain at peace—indeed that all professed that intention. There is however nothing but these professions to evince the existence of any such disposition upon the part of the heretofore hostile bands—the only proof of their sincerity which they could give or we could accept after being so repeatedly deceived—Viz., the going on, of the Chief to the seat of Government on the delivery of the murderers have been entirely evaded, altho the former constituted the basis of the agreement made with me on the first of March last—the information received within a few days from Gov. Edwards (and he has better means of acquiring it than I have from the intercourse that is kept up between the Tippecanoe & the Illinois River) confirms that which I had previously received from a principal Potawatomie Chief, Viz., that the major part of the Winebago Tribe are at Tippecanoe with the Prophet & Tecumseh & that they have also been joined by many small bands from the Illinois River & the East of Lake Michigan—making a force at least equal to that which they commanded last summer and that their intentions were entirely hostile.

The Gov. also says that there are at this time nearly eight hundred Warriors embodied at Peoria—that the British agents were endeavouring to effect a peace between the Sioux & Chippewas for the purpose of uniting both those Tribes in a War against us and that they were making large deposits of Indian goods at their establishments on Lake Michigan & on the Communication between that latter & Lake Superior.

Major Floyd has returned from the Delaware Towns. He was detained by the Chief until they should learn the result of the Council at Mississiniway.

This Tribe is entirely to be depended on. they have determined to follow the wishes & directions of the President implicitly.

Upon the whole Sir there is nothing in the suspension of Indian aggression for the last three weeks to induce the belief that the present is any other than one of those deceitful calms which frequently occurs in Indian warfare & which are always succeeded by increased activity in their depredations.

I have heard nothing from Colo. Russell but on Friday last a Company of mounted Volunteers arrived here from Frankfort Kentucky. The information of the danger to which we were exposed induced these patriots to come on without the hope of pay & at their own expense. I have however offered them such provisions as the Contractors Stores would supply. Two other companies have organised themselves & have tendered their services to come on at any time that I should send for them. But as the object of all of them is to be actively employed I shall not send for either of the others & shall dismiss the one that is now here. Unless the face of affairs shall change in a few days or I should receive some orders from you to justify their detention.

With great Respect I have the Honor to be Sir

your Humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble.

William Eustis Esq.

Secy. of War.

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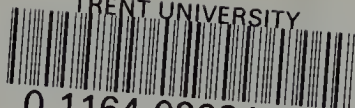
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